DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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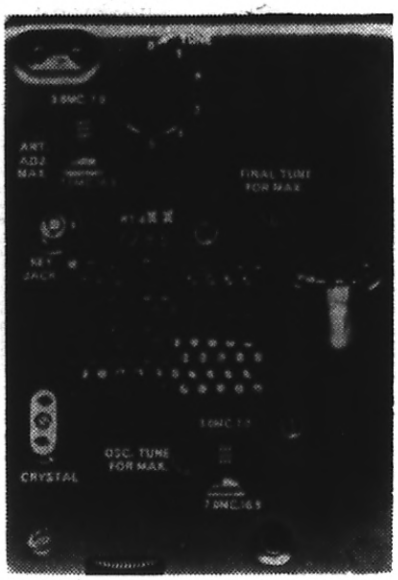
SPY RADIO



One of the U. S. Army radio transmitters seized by East German police from members of an espionage gang.

U.S. SPY CHIEF TALKS

"Nazis Work for U. S. Intelligence"

The deputy chief of a big nazi spy ring financed by the U. S. authorities has fled to East Berlin taking with him all the files from his office.

The spy chief, 52 years old Hans Joachim Geyer, addressed a press conference in East Berlin on November 9th, at which he gave details of the dirty work being done by his former organisation, work which was laying the groundwork for a new war.

Here are the main passages from Herr Geyer's statement:

"My name is Hans Joachim Geyer, born in Rathenow on June 18th 1901, married and father of three children.

"Up to October 29th 1953 I was deputy chief in West Berlin, under the alias 'Grell' of the espionage centre known by the code name of 'X/9592'. This was part of the espionage organisation headed by ex-General Gustav von Gehlen of the former fascist Wehrmacht.

"I have made a clean break with my criminal past, and have asked the German Democratic Republic for asylum. As a sign of my honest intentions I have handed over to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic all the secret documents from espionage centre No. X/9592.

"When I began to work for this espionage organisation, I believed that I was thereby serving the interests of Germany. I soon discovered, however that the activities of this organisation were the exact opposite of useful for Germany.

"The organisation, which had been represented to me as a purely German affair, turned out to be an espionage organisation commanded and financed by the Americans, working on the direct orders of the American Intelligence Service.

"The branches of the organisation are disguised as business branches. X/9592 for instance, functioned under the name "Firma Nordland" at 19 Apostel Paulus Strasse, Berlin Schoeneberg (American Sector).

"The organisation is headed by former fascist General Gehlen, and most of the members of the spy network are former officers from the nazi espionage branches and other departments of the fascist Wehrmacht. The chief

(cont. on page 2)

Nazi Network Smashed: Many Arrests

East German security authorities have smashed a wide network of espionage and sabotage organisations in the German Democratic Republic, the Ministry of the Interior announced on October 30th.

"The network, which was serving the Americans, consisted of a West German espionage organisation directed by former nazi General Gustav von Gehlen, and a group of agents organised by the U. S. Counter Intelligence Corps," the official announcement stated.

"Arrests were made in Berlin, Halle, Cottbus, Potsdam and several other places. American-made radio transmitters, weapons, large quantities of espionage material and secret instructions and plans for carrying out attacks on the population of the German Democratic Republic were seized.

"Investigations continue."

The nazi General Gehlen mentioned was formerly head of the eastern intelligence section of Hitler's General staff. In 1945 he delivered lists of nazi espionage agents to the American occupation forces, and since then has re-organised parts of his old network with the aid of U. S. funds.

Further details on the spy network released later showed that over one hundred persons were arrested. Many of those arrested were former nazi officers, like Helmut Schwenk, who had been a parachutist in the Wehrmacht during World War 2.

One of the arrested agents, Frau Hildegard Helene Schmidt, of 9 Stift Strasse, Luckenwalde, gave full details of the way in which she was trained as a radio operator in West Berlin. The training had been given in an apartment rented by a man named Hans Fuhrmann at 9 Parade Strasse, Tempelhof, American Sector of West Berlin. She had actually been trained by a man named Horst Peltzer, she stated.

(cont. from p. 1)

U. S. SPY CHIEF TALKS

of espionage department X/8970, for instance, was formerly a major of the Luftwaffe, and Westphal, alias Donner, chief of sub-section X was Lieutenant Colonel of the Luftwaffe.

"In recruiting agents in the German Democratic Republic particular emphasis was laid upon persons such as former officers, former members of the SS and the Gestapo, and former general staff officers.

"Other persons recruited as agents included cripples and old people who would not be suspected of acting as spies.

"The agents were given the task of carrying out all categories of economic, military and political espionage. They were particularly instructed to report details on the guarding of transport facilities, above all bridges.

"From November 1st this year a special 'research' department was to be established in spy centre X/9592, charged with channelling spies and agents into the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union.

"Particular attention was paid to the recruiting of radio operators, and the establishment of secret radio stations capable of transmitting information and receiving orders. The necessary radio apparatus was of American manufacture, and was provided by the American Intelligence Service.

"I came to realise that the work which I was doing was criminal, and finally I reached the conclusion that all measures taken by this organisation only served the preparation of a new war of aggression against the East.

"This led me to end my activities in the spy ring, and to ask the Government of the German Democratic Republic for asylum.

"I take this opportunity to warn all Germans not to allow themselves to be taken in by rosy promises made by western agents. At the same time I appeal to my former colleagues in West Berlin and West Germany to take the same step that I have taken.

"I myself wish, through honest work, to make good what harm I have done in the service of this criminal spy ring in the service of the U. S."

*

Replying to questions put at the press conference, which was attended by correspondents from British, French and American as well as German newspapers, the former spy chief revealed that all West Berlin agents of the spy ring were issued with special "security numbers" by the American Counter Intelligence Corps. If they were arrested anywhere in western territory, or got into other difficulties, they were to flash this number and insist that they could make a statement only to an American officer of the CIC.

Colonel Borrman, an officer of the East German Security Service, told the press conference that investigations had shown that one of the U. S. spy offices in Berlin was situated at 18 Clay Allee, in the U. S. Sector. This office was headed by an American citizen calling himself Mr Dean, who had an assistant calling himself Mr Quints. Their liaison to the German spy group was maintained by another American named Mr Adler. He was the man who actually paid out the money to the German agents.

The Gehlen spy ring is not confined to Germany, the press conference was told. Details had come to light in the past few days showing that it was also active in Paris and a number of provincial towns in the eastern part of France.

How Naive Can You Get?

"There is, needless to say, no likelihood that the men who have now been arrested in Eastern Germany were ever part of 'a network of agents' or inspired by one"

"Manchester Guardian", November 2nd 1953

Now read this:

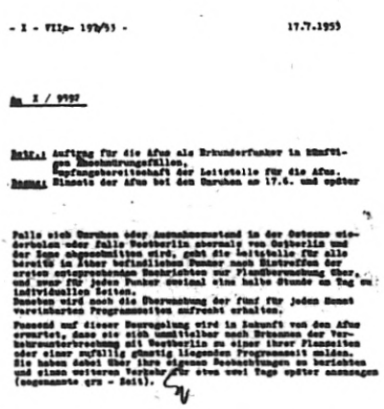
"In that provision to the Mutual Security Law which authorises the use of up to $ 100 million to aid selected persons... we have the opportunity to go on the offensive in the cold war...

" To say that terror would play no part... is to be utterly inconversant with what constitutes a liberation movement."

U. S. Congressman Charles C. Kersten, "Congressional Record", October 20th 1951.

"Radio-men Must Give Reports"

– Spy Instructions



Here is one of the documents seized from U. S. agents by East German police. The instruction sheet is worded as follows:

—X— VIIa — 197/53 17. 7. 53

Subject: Instructions for Afus (? ed.) as scout radio-men in future cases of cutting off (of West Berlin, ed.)

Reception readiness in head office for the Afus.

Reference: Work of the Afus during the disturbances on June 17th and later.

If disturbances or state of emergency should recur in the East Zone, or if West Berlin should again be isolated from East Berlin and the Zone, the head office will as soon as such news comes in, be ready to receive from all radio-men already on the air; reception will be prepared for each radio-man twice daily for half an hour at individual times.

In addition reception readiness will be maintained for the five monthly programme transmission periods previously arranged.

As a result of this new arrangement, it is awaited from Afus that in future they should establish contact, either at the planned time or at a programme time if that should happen to be favourable, as soon as they get to know of interruption of traffic with West Berlin.

In this case they must give reports on their own observations, and must fix a further transmission about two days later (socalled qrx time).

"Cut Occupation Costs" – E. GERMAN CALL

The western powers should cut occupation costs in West Germany, and make other concessions similar to those made by the Soviet Union to East Germany, the Government of the German Democratic Republic proposed to the governments of the USA, Britain and France on November 7th.

In identical letters addressed to all three governments, the East German Government recalled that in August this year the Soviet Union had cancelled reparations payments, cut occupation costs to 5% of the East German budget, wiped out state post-war debts incurred, and handed over all Soviet industrial enterprises in East Germany to the East German state.

"The German people believe they are entitled to insist that similar measures should be taken by the governments of the western powers" the letter stated.

"The population of West Germany is burdened with reparations payments to various states and in various forms. For the year 1953 alone the state budget of the West German Federal Republic includes the sum of 9,600 million marks in occupation costs — 34.5% of the entire income of the Federal Republic. Since 1945 state debts to the western occupation powers amounting to at least 7,380 million marks have been incurred."

The letter pointed out that a reduction in these burdens would lead to a rise in the standard of living of the West German population, and would weaken the influence of the militarists and politicians calling for revenge in West Germany.

"Such a step would also create favourable conditions for the taking of joint measures to restore German unity and would make the conclusion of a peace treaty more easy" the letter said.

Bigger Pensions for Trade Union Veterans

All retired trade union veterans in East Germany with pensions of less than 200 marks monthly will in future receive a monthly grant of 10 marks from union funds, the Central Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation decided on November 2nd. The special grant will be paid to all men and women who have been trade union members for 40 years and more.

E. GERMAN HARVEST GOOD

Industrial Production Rising

The harvest in the German Democratic Republic was good this year, particularly in potatoes, vegetables and fodder crops, the State Planning Commission reported on November 4th, in its regular quarterly statement.

In the third quarter of 1953 industrial production was 14% up on production in the same quarter of last year. In the same period average wages of workers in production had risen by 9.4%.

Between June and September 1953, as the result of the new policy pursued by the Government, there had been particularly large increases in the production of consumer goods, the report stated. Production of margarine had nearly doubled, tinned fish production had risen 46%, the supply of cameras had gone up 65% and of bicycles 16%. There had been similar increases for a whole range of other goods.

Great strides had been made in health and other social services during the three month period. 6200 new places had been provided in nursery schools and creches for the children of working mothers. Special country nursery schools had been established during the harvest period in 1477 villages, in addition to the 826 permanent nursery schools provided by agricultural production cooperatives.

Eleven new factory clinics, 19 factory medical consulting rooms, and 894 medical aid centres were opened during the three months under review.

OST-WEST-KURIER

Das Deutsche Reich besteht weiter

Nie lassen heute:

"The German Reich Continues to Exist"

was the streamer headline on the October number of the "Ost-West-Kurier" published in West Germany.

The map printed under this headline shows:

1. In black, the present area of West Germany
2. In grey all the territory allegedly "lost" in World War 2. This includes the German Democratic Republic, the lands east of the Oder-Neisse frontier which became part of Poland under the Potsdam Agreement, and East Prussia, which was incorporated in the Soviet Union and Poland under the same agreement.
3. In white, inside dotted frontiers, the territory "lost" in World War 1. This includes, in the west, the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, and in the east large parts of Poland.

The newspaper suggests that this map should be hung in the West German Parliament "to remind members of the task ahead of them" — obviously the task of launching a new war to grab these territories again.

ADENAUER'S NAZI MINISTERS

(In our last issue, dated October 30th, we gave short biographies of the two SS men, the two nazi storm troopers, and the other Hitler-admirers in the new West German Government. Here are some more details about these "defenders of western culture".)

SS Major Waldemar Kraft — Minister Without Portfolio

Waldemar Kraft, Chairman of the Refugee Party, and Minister without Portfolio in Chancellor Adenauer's Government, had the membership number of 347,148 in the SS — Hitler's black-uniformed guards, who staffed the concentration camps. He held the rank of Hauptsturmfuehrer (Major) in this organisation, which he joined on November 13th 1939.

Kraft had membership number 9,428,904 in the nazi party, which he joined in 1943.

During the war Kraft worked as member of the "Volkstumsreferat des Amtes II 2 des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes Berlin" (Nationalities Section of Department II/2 of the Reich Main Security Office). The Reich Main Security Office was the coordinating office for the whole framework of nazi terror and espionage. Another department of the same office, IVA 4b, dealt with the attempted extermination of Europe's Jews.

Theodor Oberlaender, Minister for Expellees

Chancellor Adenauer's new Minister for Expellees joined the nazi party in 1933, as soon as Hitler came to power, and rose to the rank of major. In 1939 he became "Reichsfuehrer des Bundes Deutscher Osten" (Reich leader of the Federation of Germans in the East), and was attached in this capacity to the staff of the nazi Gauleiter of the Province of East Prussia.

When Oberlaender came into the public eye for the first time after the war, at the end of 1950, when he was named State Secretary for Refugee Problems in the Bavarian Provincial Government, the Jewish Community Council in Munich made an official protest at the appointment of a veteran nazi to this post (see "Suedbayrische Volkszeitung" January 3rd 1951).

In the past two years Oberlaender has repeatedly campaigned for the "reconquest" of East Europe, as these quotations show:

"Oberlaender demanded that young refugees from the east should be educated in the idea of returning to the east as colonists. It is absolutely out of the question that we should integrate the expellees in West Germany".

"Sueddeutsche Zeitung", Munich, August 18th 1952

"Addressing the 'Federation of Danzigers' in Kempten, Oberlaender said: 'To be victorious in the battle against Bolshevism the youth must be trained to return to the east. One day Germans will stand once again on the soil which we have only temporarily lost'."

"Der Allgaeuer", Kempten, May 5th 1953

"We must strengthen those areas of Germany which border on Czechoslovakia and we must strive for a solution of the Sudeten German problem in the spirit of the Munich Pact (under which Hitler annexed large parts of Czechoslovakia, ed.)"

Press Bulletin of the (West) German Federal Government, November 6th 1953

Gerhard Schroeder, Minister of the Interior

Gerhard Schroeder, like many other members of Chancellor Adenauer's cabinet, has publicly called for German invasion of Poland and other countries. Here is one sample:

"The Federal Republic is the core of Germany. All other German territory is land which has been stolen from us, and which we must regain."

"Industriekurier", Duesseldorf, June 13th 1953

During the nazi period Schroeder was a member of Hitler's storm troops, and legal adviser to Hjalmar Schacht, nazi "financial wizard".

(On page 4 of GERMAN REPORT dated October 30th, Gerhard Schroeder was described by error in a headline as "Minister of Justice". He is in fact Minister of the Interior.)

* * *

"We have succeeded in banning the evil spirit of nazism from this house of parliament"

Heinrich von Brentano, Leader of the Christian Democratic Fraction in the West German Parliament, addressing Parliament on October 28th 1953.

West Berlin Police Try to Ban Jewish Memorial Meeting

West Berlin police tried to ban a Jewish memorial meeting held on Grunewald railway station on November 8th, on the 15th anniversary of the "crystal night" of 1938, the biggest pre-war nazi pogrom.

More than 200 Jewish citizens of West Berlin broke through the police cordons to attend the dedication of a memorial tablet at the spot where tens of thousands of Jews were deported from Berlin to the gas chambers during the nazi period.

Threat to West German Co-ops

The West German Government is preparing a law making it illegal for cooperative stores to sell goods to persons who are not members of the cooperative, the Hamburg newsmagazine "Spiegel" reported on October 28th.

West Germans Come to East

A total of 149 West German citizens settled in East Germany between October 11th and 24th, the East Berlin authorities announced on October 30th.

Most of the West Germans had been unemployed, but they all got work in East Germany immediately.

Engineer Hans Reinicke, from Siegen in West Germany, was sacked from his job a few months ago when he refused to work on the construction of demolition borings in bridges and roads. Since then he had received no unemployment pay, since he had "refused to work".

Rudolf Removacek from Hamburg, a shipbuilding engineer, has already begun work at his trade in Wismar on the Baltic coast of East Germany, after many years of unemployment in Hamburg, British Zone.

Doctor Joachim Schumann, from the American Sector of Berlin, who could find no work in his profession, is now working in the clinic at Forst in the German Democratic Republic.

During the month of September 1953 a total of 3633 East German citizens who had fled to West Germany as the result of propaganda by the American controlled radio station in West Berlin, returned to the German Democratic Republic.

Most of them reported that they had been unable to find any work in West Germany, and had only vegetated in refugee camps. All of them are already back at work at their old jobs.

West Berlin Terrorists sentenced in Poland

American-financed spy and sabotage centres in West Berlin do not confine themselves to sending agents into East Germany, but also interfere in the peaceful development of other countries. This was shown during the last week of October in a trial held in Olsztyn, Poland.

The military court of Olsztyn passed a death sentence on Joachim Schaak, who had been recruited in West Berlin by the notorious "Fighting Group against Inhumanity", which receives a large subsidy from the U. S. Ford Foundation. On the instructions of this "Fighting Group", Joachim Schaak made frequent trips to Poland, where he organised a gang of former members of nazi youth organisations and took part in armed attacks on post offices, the offices of progressive organisations, and so on.

New E. German Deputy Foreign Minister

Herr Georg Handke, former Minister of the German Democratic Republic in Rumania, has been appointed Deputy Foreign Minister.

Georg Handke, aged 59, has been organised in the Socialist movement for over 40 years, and was a Communist member of the German Reichstag from 1919 to 1933.

Under Hitler he spent a total of 11 years in prison on charges of "high treason".

E. German Trade with Finland

East Germany will export 55 million marks worth of chemicals, fertiliser and motor vehicles to Finland in the coming year in exchange for cheese and wood, under the terms of a trade agreement signed in Helsinki on October 29th.

INDEX FOR 1952

A name and subject Index for the 1952 volume of GERMAN REPORT is now available, and will be sent to any reader requesting a copy.

A limited number of copies of some of the 1952 issues of the paper are still available for readers who want to make up complete sets.

Soviet Notes Urges Four Power Meeting

In a note dispatched on November 3rd the Soviet Government once again urged that the foreign ministers of the U. S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union should meet to discuss the German question "including all the proposals advanced during the course of the preparations for the conference."

Soviet proposals made during the present exchange of notes have been the summoning of a German Peace Conference with German participation; the formation of a provisional all-German government; and the preparation of all-German free elections by this government.

Western proposals have been much vaguer, and would appear to centre round the establishment of an "impartial commission of investigation" which should look into the conditions necessary for free elections.

(A full summary of Western and Soviet proposals was given in GERMAN REPORT dated October 16th.)

The latest Soviet Note urged that the western powers should postpone ratification of the Bonn and Paris treaties under which West Germany should be rearmed.

"This is necessary in view of the fact that ratification of these agreements and their entry into force would make it impossible to restore Germany as a unified state, and thereby also render pointless the consideration of the German question at a meeting of the foreign ministers."

The New York Times

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JULY 29, 1945

PLAN FOR RAVAGE OF BRITAIN FOUND

Deportation of Most Males and Rigid Rule Mapped in German Document

HAMBURG, Germany, July 28 (AP) — The German High Command's secret plan for the administration of Britain, which called for the deportation to the Continent of the male population between the ages of 17 and 45, is now in British hands.

A red-bound twenty-three page manuscript disclosed that Adolf Hitler planned to complete the occupation of Britain before Sept. 9 1940, and to transform the country and its resources into Germany's main war workshop . . .

Designed to prevent sabotage, the deportation provision presumably meant that Britons would have been farmed out on the Continent as slave laborers while German workers were rushed to Britain to keep the war machine operating with the minimum of interference.

Britain was to be divided into districts in charge of Army commanders, who were to have field and town units under them.

Under the list of administrative regulations the plan provided that any person in Britain impeding the German war effort by starting hostilities was to be treated as a guerilla and shot. Hostages were to be taken as a "security" measure. National laws in force prior to the German invasion were to be maintained only if they were not "contrary to the purposes of the occupation" . . .

Death sentences were to be assessed against persons who failed to turn in all radio transmitting apparatus and spare parts . . .

The regulations also stated that monuments were to be protected.

* * *

FOOTNOTE FOR THE BRITISH PEOPLE

Deportation, shooting, slave labourers — these were the prospects for the people of Britain if Hitler's armies had been successful.

Today, the same industrialists who put Hitler in the saddle are supporting Adenauer: the same generals who would have carried out the deportations and the shootings in Britain are rebuilding the Wehrmacht in West Germany.

If you want to be deported, or shot, or set to work as a slave labourer, then support the plans for rebuilding militarism in West Germany. If you do not fancy the prospect, then sit down now, and write to your member of parliament to protest.

HUGE CHEMICAL WORKS HANDED BACK TO EAST GERMANY

The huge Leuna Chemical works, which since the end of the war has been run as a Soviet Company, will be handed back to the German Democratic Republic on January 1st 1953, together with 32 other large concerns in East Germany.

At a press conference on November 3rd, some details were given of what this factory, formerly part of the IG Farben empire, will mean to the peace economy of Germany.

The Leuna Works, today known as the "Walter Ulbricht Works" after the East German Deputy Prime Minister, employ over 28,000 workers, and produce 90% of the nitrogen fertiliser used in East Germany, and 30 % of the petrol. In addition the works turn out the raw materials for the production of nylon stockings, paints and enamels of all sorts, and hundreds of other products.

Nearly one quarter of the total production of the works goes as exports to 24 different countries. Less than one percent of the total production has been going to the Soviet Union and Poland as reparations, and this will cease at the end of this year, when all reparations deliveries from the German Democratic Republic come to an end.

The Leuna Works were almost totally wrecked by 23 heavy British and American air-raids during the war, but thanks to the efforts of the Soviet experts who have run the plant since the war, all damage has been repaired, at a total cost of 150 million marks.

Between 1947 and 1953 over 76 million marks were devoted to improving working conditions in the factory and providing educational and social amenities.

Footnote: The Leuna Works is only one of the 33 large factories in East Germany which have been run since the war as Soviet Companies, and which will be handed over to the East German state on January 1st 1954. After that date the factories will be run as nationally-owned factories. The handing-over will naturally make no difference to the working of the factories, all of which are in full production.

The big business press in West Germany and other countries has attempted to suggest that in some mysterious way the handing over of these factories will create unemployment, which is non-existent in the German Democratic Republic. The London "News Chronicle" on November 2nd produced its own variant of this story with the following report:

"Several thousand workers 'suspected as western agents' have been suspended from their jobs — a convenient mopping-up of the inevitable unemployment following the hand-over of 33 of the biggest industrial works from Russian to East German ownership."

If Bruce Rothwell, Berlin correspondent of the "News Chronicle", can explain convincingly how he expects this unemployment to occur, we shall be pleased to print his explanation in the next number of GERMAN REPORT.

Christmas Bonuses for E. German Workers

Christmas bonuses will be paid to all employees of nationally owned industries in East Germany who earn less than 600 marks monthly, it was announced in Berlin on November 7th. The bonuses will be 40 marks for married employees, 30 marks for unmarried, and 10 marks for apprentices.

East German Mark on Gold Basis

The mark of the German Democratic Republic has been placed on a gold basis, and will in future be valued at .3999902 grammes of gold, it was officially announced in Berlin on October 30th.

For international exchange transactions this means that the East German mark now has an exchange rate of 2.22 for one U. S. dollar.

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

Democratic German Report
Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

PAULUS WILL WORK FOR PEACE

Ex-Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, who commanded the German troops at the battle of Stalingrad, has publicly announced that he will devote all his strength in future to the achievement of the peaceful reunification of Germany, and to the promotion of friendship with the Soviet Union and all peace-loving nations.

Paulus, who returned to Germany from captivity in the Soviet Union at the end of October this year, issued a statement just before leaving the Soviet Union in which he said:

"As leader of the German troops in the battle of Stalingrad, I got to know all the horrors of a war of conquest, not only for the Soviet people whom we had attacked, but also for our own soldiers.

"The lessons of my own experiences, and the course of the entire Second World War have convinced me that the future of the German people depends not upon ideas of power, but upon lasting friendship with the Soviet Union and with all other peace-loving nations."

German-Soviet Friendship Month

Soviet occupation troops in East Germany marked the month of German-Soviet friendship, being celebrated in November, by working voluntary shifts on reconstruction jobs.

In twenty different towns and villages of the Suhl district Soviet soldiers worked shifts on local housing projects. In many other places they helped farmers and peasant cooperators in the fields.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Friedrichstrasse 167 III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

SPIKE THAT LIE!

Canadian Fiction Dept.

The scurrilous lie about alleged Soviet mass rapings in eastern Europe has been one of the hardy annuals in the garden of war and hate propaganda. Now a Canadian financial journalist has produced what must be the rape story to end all rape stories.

The journalist in question, Ronald A. McEachern, editor of the "Financial Post" of Toronto, Canada, has been touring West Germany, and reporting to his readers on his tour. On October 3rd he was able to report:

"One young doctor told me about 85% of the East German women had been violated by Russians..."

The population of East Germany is roughly 18,000,000 — about 9,000,000 women. 85% of this figure is 7,650,000. Western press reports commonly estimate the Soviet occupation troops in East Germany to number about 200,000.

This works out at nearly 40 women per head. Surely someone should tell Dr. Kinsey about this.

Financial journalists are generally regarded as a hard-bitten bunch, but Mr. McEachern appears to have been remarkably gullible. His informants could sell him almost any story they liked. Here is another passage from his article published on October 3rd:

"One refugee (from East Germany, ed.) with whom I talked was 28. He is young and strong. His escape took him six days... He slept in the fields... His food was raw cabbage.. He said he was fortunate because a girl friend worked for the Russians and she was able to get him a map."

Now anyone who wants to "escape" from the German Democratic Republic knows perfectly well that all he has to do is to take the next train for Berlin and go to West Berlin by underground train, elevated railway, or on foot. No barbed wire, no control posts, no passes needed or anything.

And the yarn about the map is gorgeous. Every book store and newspaper kiosk in East Germany has a wide selection of maps of Germany — motoring maps, pocket atlases, large scale maps for walking tours, and so on.

For the sake of Canadian financiers, we hope that Mr. McEachern's financial information is not so full of holes as his report from Germany.

Open

The Yorkshire Post

and Yorks Mercury

No. 33123—ESTAB 1754 LEEDS TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 1953

10,000 GERMAN PARTISANS FIGHT RUSSIANS

The Editor, November 11th 1953

"The Yorkshire Post"
Leeds, Yorkshire.

Sir,

On November 3rd you printed as your main news headline the sentence "10,000 German Partisans Fight Russians."

This headline, and the story below it signed by "our political correspondent Ian Trethowan", must be classified as one of the most glaring inaccuracies in the history of journalism.

The story stated in part:

"About 10,000 partisans are waging full scale guerrilla warfare against the Russian occupying forces in East Germany. Barracks, camps and defence posts are being blown up... in organised operations centrally directed and covering the whole Russian Zone...

"The partisans are working on the scale of the Maquis in wartime France..."

The fact is that your entire news story was an incredible distortion of the fact that a group of five armed Czechs, at large in East Germany, had shot and killed four policemen; as a result a big-scale police dragnet had been thrown out.

If a group of five Frenchmen, heavily armed and shooting to kill, were known to be making their way across Yorkshire, I am sure that police reserves would be turned out to search for them. And if an East German newspaper then reported in big headlines "10,000 Yorkshire partisans fight troops" you would be very properly incensed. That is an exact parallel to what you have done with your sensational story.

I am not asking you to take my word for what has been happening in East Germany in the past week or two. The "Manchester Guardian" on November 5th reported:

"Reports of a 'civil war' raging in Eastern Germany and of widespread fighting between partisans and People's Police were summarily disposed of today, when three Czechs who had escaped into West Berlin admitted that they had been responsible for shooting four policemen and for taking part in armed clashes with others."

You may make the excuse that you were misled by exaggerated news-agency reports from West Berlin. If you are still being deluded by the corny and often nazi-planted stories which flow from West Berlin, then I can only assume that the editorial standard of the "Yorkshire Post" is not so high as it was in years gone by, when it was still regarded as a serious and responsible newspaper.

I shall print a copy of this letter in the forthcoming number of GERMAN REPORT, a copy of which I enclose for your perusal, and hope that you will print either this letter or some other correction of your story.

If you can provide me with any satisfactory proof that your story was in fact correct, then I shall naturally find space for such proof in my paper.

I am, etc.

John Peet

Readers can help us to spike the lies about East Germany in the big business press by sending us cuttings. Please write the name of the newspaper and the date on each cutting, and mail it in straight away, before the lie has a chance to get cold.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

"It was nice to read of the price reductions in East Germany, but the different reports have got me very confused. In GERMAN REPORT it looked as if everyone was going to be better off, but all the reports I saw in the papers here gave details of frightfully high prices for meat and margarine and things. Whom am I to believe?"

S. M., London

That is typical of several letters which I have had in the past few days. The big-business press in Britain and elsewhere does its best to spread confusion when there is a price cut in the countries of Socialism, of course.

On October 26th, the day after the latest East German reduction, the headlines alone were interesting. "Promise of Cheaper Food" said the "Manchester Guardian": "Even so, cigarettes are 5½d. each" said the London "Daily Express", while the London "Times" had that delightful headline "Doubtful Benefit to Workers".

Rough Equivalent

Most of the papers then went on to give statistics in terms of English currency — beef 10/- per pound, margarine 7/- per pound, and so on.

The rate of exchange on the international market is always a doubtful way of expressing the real value of goods and wages, but these prices may be accepted as rough equivalents. What all the stories failed to point out, and what is absolutely vital to understand the position, is that these prices are the free market prices — the unrationed prices of goods which are available on ration cards in fairly adequate quantities are much lower.

Full details of the rations available to an average family, and the prices of both rationed and unrationed foodstuffs compared to West Germany were given in GERMAN REPORT dated September 4th. We still have some copies available of this issue, and will be glad to send one to any reader interested.

The prices of the unrationed foodstuffs are still very high in East Germany, and nobody tries to disguise the fact. But they are coming down steadily — there have been 14 big price reductions since the free market system was established in 1948, and more cuts are on the way.

By John Peet

And all the time basic foodstuffs — meat, fats, sugar — are available on the ration at prices about 5/8 of the prices paid in West Germany. Potatoes and bread, both unrationed, are available in the East at about half the prices ruling in the West. And in considering all this it must be remembered that wages are rather higher in East Germany than in the West, and that taxation on low incomes is also lower here.

But let's get away from general theorising. In GERMAN REPORT for September 4th, as I said above, we printed the food budget of an average East German family, with a comparison with West German prices.

TIGHT CORRESPONDENT?

"Berlin, Thursday — East Germany can start making gin again, the Communist Department for Internal Economy ordered tonight."

Daily Express, London, October 30th 1953

All liquor shops in East Germany have been offering two or three brands of gin on free sale for the past few years. Official statistics show that the production of spirits, including gin and some 50 other varieties, rose 36% between June 1953 and September 1953.

And we are still wondering what the "Communist Department of Internal Economy" is.

I have just looked up that list, and seen what the new price cuts will mean in actual savings. The bill at the butcher's for off-the-ration meat will go down over 9 marks a month, and the bill for cigarettes will go down 12 marks monthly. With other small items the family will have a saving of almost 23 marks monthly on food and cigarettes alone — enough in a year to buy a bicycle, for instance.

And this is only the saving on food. It leaves out of account the big savings on clothing, bed linen, shoes for the children, and all the other things which came down in price.

Just incidentally, the "Daily Express" correspondent who thought up the story saying "Cigarettes are 5½d. each even at the new rate" should take a refresher course in mathematics. At the rate of ten marks to one English pound, which he uses for the rest of his calculations, cheapest cigarettes in East Germany now cost 1½d.

I am still puzzling over one sentence in the report on the price cuts printed in the "Manchester Guardian" on October 26th.

The Bonn correspondent of that once great newspaper, the Hon. Terence Prittie, stated at one point in his usually badly-informed article: "The rulers of Eastern Germany do not necessarily believe in the principle of one parrot per proletarian cage".

The rest of the article, which has no mention of parrots, proletarians, or cages, gives no clue as to what he might possibly have meant.

What Next?

Whatever will those nasty reds do next? Now they are responsible for the wickedness of night-life in West Berlin, according to the American news agency United Press.

On October 29th the "New York Herald Tribune", Paris edition, printed a United Press report from Berlin, under the headline "Night Life Wide Open in Berlin".

After detailing the various forms of diversion — women wrestlers, prostitutes, and something coyly described as "every vice known since Greek and Roman times" — the correspondent gives the reason for it all: "The city lives under the shadow of the hammer and sickle, only a stone's throw away across the city border".

Incidentally the same article provides an interesting side-light on what happens to some of the unhappy young people who are lured by American propaganda broadcasts to leave their homes and their work in East Germany and "flee to freedom" in West Berlin.

"Even a Piccadilly policeman would be shocked at the number of prostitutes along the Kurfuerstendamm, West Berlin's main artery. Many of the girls are from the East Zone. Some have fled from Communism and are unable to find jobs . . ."

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